

Bridgewater College

BC Digital Commons

Eagle Families Newsletter

Journals and Campus Publications

Fall 2018

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EAGLE FAMILIES

FALL 2018



GREETINGS!

Welcome to our fall 2018 edition of Eagle Families. We hope that you'll be able to visit campus this semester and see for yourself all the exciting activities going on, especially the construction and renovation of the library into the new Forrer Learning Commons. The work is on schedule to be completed in time for students to enjoy and utilize it in the next academic year.

In this issue, we introduce you to our new Associate Dean of Students and Director of Counseling Services, Dr. Neal Rittenhouse. And I hope you enjoy our student profile, "A Day In The Life," giving you a glimpse into the life of a busy, engaged BC student. Enjoy!

Suzanne Bushman
Chair, BC Family Council
Presidential Spouse

2018-19 FAMILY COUNCIL BOARD

Suzanne Bushman, *Chair*
Presidential Spouse
Sara '94 & Travis Andrews '93
Gary and Gina Cook
Linette & Mike Deputy
Karla '86 & Brad Hallock '86
Mark & Traci Hamra
Catherine & Nelson Kelley
Sandy & Walter Shipe
Mary Helen '83 & Jim Tucker '79

A DAY IN THE LIFE: Stephanie Brooks '19

..... finishing all her required courses before 15 weeks of student teaching begin in the spring. This hasn't stopped her from being active on campus. Whether it's planning Eagle Productions events throughout the year, attending Student Senate meetings or tutoring for the Writing Center, Stephanie is always ready to do what she can for the BC community.

8 a.m. Stephanie gets up and gets ready to head to class. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, she goes to yoga at 9 a.m., and, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, she attends Ethics and Identity at 9:30 a.m.

Noon Grammar, Style and Editing is the next class on her agenda. Stephanie chose Bridgewater College thanks to two of her high school English teachers, both of whom had graduated from Bridgewater. They encouraged her to explore what BC had to offer. Stephanie said of studying English, "I love it. I love my major so much."

1 p.m. Next Stephanie heads to Curriculum and Instruction in the Secondary Classroom. Taken in the semester prior to student teaching, the class also includes 20 hours of field experience. Stephanie goes to Buffalo Gap High School in Swoope, Va., to observe an English class from 1:30-3:30 p.m. two days a week.

2 p.m. Stephanie goes to her Senior Seminar in English, focusing on the literature of the civil rights movement. Her favorite classes in the Department of English have been Introduction to American Studies and Shakespeare.

As an English major and senior in the Teacher Education Program, Stephanie Brooks '19 is finishing all her required

6 p.m. Stephanie heads to a club meeting, such as Eagle Productions (EP) or Student Senate. Stephanie joined EP in her first year at BC. EP helps plan most of the evening and weekend activities on campus. As a junior, Stephanie served as Production Director of EP, and now as a senior, she is the club's president. She is most proud of Homecoming activities and Terror Tour (a haunted house-style tour on campus) and is excited for the upcoming Lip Sync Battle.

As a sophomore, she became a Student Ambassador, giving campus tours to prospective students and families, and a Soar Mentor, leading student

orientation groups. She was a Resident Advisor for one year, is currently the Vice President of Alpha Chi, a national academic honor society, and is a member of the Philomathes Society, Bridgewater's academic honor society.

9 p.m. Stephanie signs into Gmail/Google Drive for her online tutoring shift with the Writing Center. She is typically available to tutor her peers three nights a week, offering writing help with all types of papers and projects through sharing a collaborative Google Doc. Stephanie's tutoring work has given her confidence in her own ability to teach. Upon graduation, she wants to teach middle or high school students, preferably in Augusta County (Virginia) Schools.



Send a Care Package for Exam Week

Since 2012, the Residence Hall Association (RHA) at Bridgewater College has sponsored a care package program, which serves as a fundraiser for the RHA. It takes place every year before finals, allowing families to send their student treats and motivation prior to exam week. They have a variety of offerings, such as pop tarts, popcorn, candy, coffee and more. Packages are also offered in welcome or holiday themes.

Care packages can be ordered online, by phone or by mail. If you'd like to send your student a care package, call 877-942-7887 or visit ocm.com/bdw/carepackages.



BC LAUNCHES DIGITAL MEDIA MASTER'S AND PROFESSIONAL WRITING MAJOR



Bridgewater College has recently approved a new graduate program and a new major, both within the Division of Communication Studies, Fine Arts, and Literature.

The new interdisciplinary master of arts in digital media strategy includes courses focused on communication, writing, design and technical production, electives from multiple disciplines and a culminating master's project. Interested BC undergraduate students may be able to overlap the nine credits of dual-enrollment electives with their undergraduate degree and complete their B.A./B.S., along with the M.A., in five years.

Pending final approval by SACS, Bridgewater's accrediting body, the program will launch in January 2019.

The Department of English has added a professional writing major. The new program offers a comprehensive education in a broad range of skills desired by employers in current jobs, many of which prioritize writing and editing. The major allows students to tailor their academic plans to their career interests and to focus on specialized areas, such as creative writing and journalism.

A MESSAGE FROM:

Neal Rittenhouse, Associate Dean of Students

Hello, Eagle families!

I wanted to briefly introduce myself to you and let you know about my role in the Department of Student Life. I am a licensed clinical psychologist, who joined the Bridgewater College family in December 2017 as an Associate Dean of Students and Director of Counseling Services. In this capacity,



I provide oversight and support to the Counseling Center and the Student Health Center.

I have lived in the Shenandoah Valley since 1998 and completed all my higher education at James Madison University. Prior to joining Bridgewater College, I trained and worked predominantly in academic and medical settings that took a holistic approach to leadership and teaching, as well as the ways in which we conceptualize and address mental health concerns. I earned my doctoral degree from a program that taught its students to look at things systemically. Rather than forming rigid identities inside our profession,

we sought cooperation and dialogue within multidisciplinary groups, for the benefit of research, evaluation or treatment.

Most recently, with the Department of Veterans Affairs and at Sentara RMH Medical Center, my role was to work with other disciplines to help clinicians and patients better understand the important intersections of our psychology, our physiology, our cognition, our spiritual beliefs, and how we define ourselves and make meaning of the world we share.

As a parent of two young children myself, I can relate to the visceral reaction that many of us have when we perceive that our child is in pain. At the same time, one of the developmental tasks for college students is to identify how they adapt, cope and ultimately grow from the challenges that they will inevitably face. It can be difficult to find the optimal balance of support and nurture, combined with the sort of challenge that motivates students to reach their academic and developmental goals. From my perspective, Bridgewater College achieves this balance exceptionally well.

I look forward to getting to know you and the rest of the Bridgewater College community as we work together to engage and support our students.



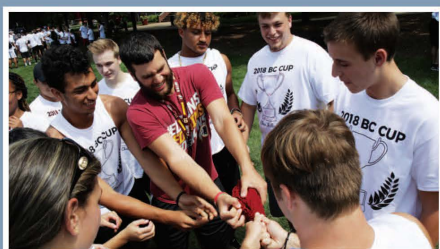
Six hundred first-year students moved to campus in late August and began getting to know each other and their new home during Welcome Week.

"Take over the Funk" in the Funkhouser Center featured bubble soccer, fitness classes and many other fun games and activities. This was a time for students to get familiar with the classes and activities the Funk offers.

Also pictured at left is BINGO night in the Kline Campus Center.



WELCOME
Week



The Bridgewater Cup Class Challenge featured students competing on teams with their first-year seminar (FILA-150) classmates to see who would win the ultimate prize!

Immediately following the Opening Convocation in Nininger Hall, first-year students processed through "the echelon," as faculty and staff welcomed them into the BC community.

ATTENTION: PARENTS OF SENIORS

IMPORTANT COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION

2019 Baccalaureate Service:

Friday, May 3 | 6 p.m., Campus Mall

Baccalaureate Dinner:

7 p.m., Kline Campus Center Dining Hall

2019 Commencement Exercises:

Saturday, May 4 | 10 a.m., Campus Mall

Bridgewater's Commencement website will go live in January. The website will have information for seniors, parents and guests, and it will be updated throughout the spring semester.

Parents and guests should make necessary motel/hotel reservations as soon as possible. James Madison University will also be holding Commencement exercises on Saturday, May 4, and accommodations are booking quickly. The closest hotel to campus is The Village Inn. Other accommodations are available in the greater Harrisonburg/Staunton area.

See bridgewater.edu/placestostay for a partial list.

If you have any additional questions about Commencement, please email commencement@bridgewater.edu.

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